



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## **Economic Development Commission** **Regular Meeting** **Minutes - Draft**

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 5:30pm  
Held Virtually via Zoom

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Crowther at 5:32pm. Commission members Ron Jodice, Charmaine Seavy, and Brooke Freeman were present. Ex officio member Bill Rice (Planning Commission) was also present. Staff members in attendance included Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager, Tom Fitzgerald, Management Specialist, Mike Glidden, Director of Planning and Community Development, and Andrew "Sherm" Sherman, Business & Career Center Coordinator. Also in attendance was Morgan Hilyard, Executive Director of Simsbury Chamber of Commerce.

### **1) 2020-2021 EDC Work Plan Updates**

#### **a) Marketing Project Update**

Ms. Seavy informed the group that the marketing study was presented to the Board of Selectmen at their August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and that it seemed to have been well received. She will follow up with the consultant for the next steps.

#### **b) Co-working Spaces/Supporting Entrepreneurs**

Ms. Appleby reported that the proposal for the co-working website is finalized but is on hold as the Board of Selectmen American Rescue Plan Act Workgroup finalizes the process for using the funds. Staff believes that the co-working website, if approved, would be eligible for ARPA funding.

#### **c) Other**

Mr. Crowther informed the group that staff has scheduled a business outreach meeting for early September and that all EDC members will be contacted to see if they can attend.

### **2) Stakeholder and Liaison Updates**

#### **a) Main Street Partnership**

None

#### **b) Chamber of Commerce**

Ms. Hilyard said the Chamber is seeing a high rate of renewal for its members. The Chamber also is seeing a record amount of new businesses joining which is an encouraging sign. Ms. Hilyard informed the group of some upcoming Chamber

events. Mr. Crowther and Ms. Hilyard also reviewed the speakers scheduled to attend the upcoming Government Affairs Committee meetings.

**c) Business & Career Center**

Sherm said the Library continues to receive large amounts of requests for outside groups to use the large meeting rooms, but currently those meeting spaces are unavailable. The Library is switching to a new event calendar system shortly and staff is excited about it.

**d) Zoning**

Mr. Glidden reported that the Zoning Commission will be discussing recreational marijuana and accessory dwelling units at its next meeting.

**e) Design Review**

None

**f) Sustainability**

None

**g) Development Projects**

Mr. Crowther said that the proposed development on Iron Horse Boulevard received all of its local approvals. Mr. Glidden said that the next step is for the developer to apply for its state traffic and stormwater permits.

**h) Other**

None

**3) Housekeeping Items**

**a) EDC Vacancy Posting**

Mr. Crowther asked the group if they had any feedback on the posting and to share with anyone they think would be interested in serving on the Commission. Ms. Appleby explained that due to our Charter requirements, the candidate must be of the same political party as the person who vacated the position mid-term; in this case, a Republican.

**b) EDC Liaison to SPIRIT**

Mr. Crowther said that this topic is a follow-up to the last meeting. He encouraged anyone interested in being the EDC Liaison to the SPIRIT Council to attend their September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**c) EDC 2020 – 2021 Annual Report Preparation**

Mr. Crowther said that this is a draft outline for the annual report that the EDC gives to the Board of Selectmen every year. He asked for the group's feedback to see if anything needed to be added or changed. Hearing no feedback, Mr. Crowther said he will draft a presentation for next month's meeting for the group to review prior to it being presented to the Board of Selectmen in October.

**4) Minutes July 28, 2021**

Mr. Jodice made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 28, 2021 meeting as presented.

Ms. Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Seavy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:57pm. Ms. Freeman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Fitzgerald  
Management Specialist